

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09523 191709Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02
NRC-07 /170 W

-----126913 191809Z /72

R 191248Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2318
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9523

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, IN
SUBJECT: PM DESAI'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON INDO-US NUCLEAR
RELATIONS

FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM THE UNITED STATES JUNE 17,
PRIME MINISTER DESAI COMMENTED UPON INDO-US NUCLEAR
RELATIONS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE. THERE FOLLOWS EXCERPTS
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FROM THE TRANSCRIPT. DESAI'S REMARKS ON OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL ISSUES ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTEL. BEGIN TEXT:

Q: SIR, COULD YOU PUT DOWN THE DIFFERENCES (IN
INDO-US RELATIONS) TO THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED
URANIUM BY THE UNITED STATES?
PM: WELL, THAT WAS THE ONLY DIFFERENCE. I DON'T THINK

THERE IS ANY OTHER DIFFERENCES. THIS IS PLAYED UP VERY MUCH. THAT PLAYING UP HAS DISAPPEARED.

Q: THE COMMUNIQUE SAYS CONSISTENT WITH THE NEW LAW OF THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT CARTER WILL TRY TO HELP DEVELOPMENT BY FUTURE SUPPLIES. IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US, BEYOND THIS 7.6 TONS WHICH PERHAPS YOU ARE NOW GETTING, BEYOND THIS, WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF FURTHER SUPPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES?

PM: ACCORDING TO THE LAW, THE GOVERNMENT CAN SUPPLY UP TO 1980. BUT ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT, WE ARE ENTITLED TO GET UP TILL 1993. THAT IS WHAT THE AGREEMENT HAS STIPULATED. AFTER THAT, A FRESH AGREEMENT CAN BE MADE AND TERMS CAN BE CHANGED. THE PRESIDENT IS BOUND BY THE LAW OF THE CONGRESS. I POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS NOT SUBJECT TO THAT. IT WAS MADE BEFORE AND IT IS UNCONDITIONAL.

Q: MY I ASK A SUPPLEMENTARY ON THIS? I AM SURE YOU HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL IN REGARD TO TARAPUR.

PM: NO, THAT WAS NOT DISCUSSED.

Q: IS THERE ANY SOLUTION IN SIGHT FOR THE ACCUMULATION OF THE FUEL SO FAR AS THE TARAPUR PLANT IS CONCERNED?

PM: WE ARE ALREADY FINDING OUT WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

Q: ARE YOU AGREEABLE FOR OUR REPROCESSING HERE?

PM: REPROCESSING CAN BE DONE ONLY AFTER THEY BREAK UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AGREEMENT OR AGREE WITH THE REPROCESSING. IT CANNOT BE DONE BEFORE THAT.

Q: BUT ARE THEY NOT AGREEABLE TO OUR REPROCESSING?

PM: I HAVE NOT ASKED ABOUT IT. FIRST OF ALL, WE HAVE TO SOLVE THE MAIN THING. IF THE AGREEMENT IS ADHERED TO UP TO 1993, THEN EVERYTHING ELSE WILL BE POSSIBLE, NOT VERY DIFFICULT.

Q: AFTER YOU EXPLAINED YOUR POSITION WHAT WAS THE AMERICAN REACTION? DO YOU GET THE IMPRESSION-- AT LEAST THE COMMUNIQUE SEEMS TO HINT-- THAT IN SPITE OF THE ACTS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE AMERICANS MAY AGREE TO FULFIL THE CONTRACT TILL 1993?

PM: DO YOU WANT THEM NOT TO AGREE TO IT? THEN, WHY DO YOU WANT UNNECESSARILY TO PURSUE THE QUESTION? LET IT BE DONE. LET IT GO ON. WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

Q: WAS THERE ANY SECRET UNDERSTANDING ON THIS?

PM: I DO NOT BELIEVE IN ANY OF THE SECRET DEALINGS. YOU MAY WANT TO DO SO BECAUSE YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR SOURCES SECRET, BUT I DO NOT KEEP ANYTHING SECRET.

Q: MRS. GANDHI HAS ADDRESSED A POLITICAL CONFERENCE SOMEWHERE TODAY. SHE HAS MADE TWO OBSERVATIONS. ONE IS THAT MR. MORARJI DESAI HAS ASSURED THE

UNITED STATES THAT INDIA WOULD NOT CONDUCT A
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION EVEN FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.
THIS IS VERY UNFORTUNATE.

PM: I AM NOT ASSURING THE UNITED STATES. I AM SAYING
THIS IS OUR POLICY BECAUSE IT IS NOT NECESSARY. EX-
PLOSIONS ARE NECESSARY ONLY FOR WEAPONS IN MY VIEW
AND NOT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THAT IS MY VIEW.
IT IS NOT TO OBLIGE ANYBODY OR ASSURE ANYBODY THAT
WE ARE SAYING THAT.

Q: DURING YOUR TALKS IN THE UNITED STATES, DID YOU
DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF RECOVERING THE PLUTONIUM
POWER PACK OVER NANDA DEVI?

PM: I DID NOT DISCUSS IT WITH THEM. WE ARE LOOKING AFTER
IT HERE.

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Q: THERE IS NO NEED FOR AMERICANS HELPING YOU IN THIS?

PM: SO FAR I DO NOT SEE ANY. BUT IF THERE IS ANY, THEY
HAVE ALREADY OFFERED IT BEFORE. BUT WHY SHOULD WE
TAKE IF WE CAN DO IT OURSELVES?

Q: MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU SAID THAT THE URANIUM
SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR TARAPORE IS VALID UP TO 1993
ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT. IS THE GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERING SEEKING RELIEF IN THE AMERICAN COURTS?

PM: I DO NOT PROPOSE TO GO TO COURT. RELATIONS
BETWEEN COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED BY
COURTS. END TEXT.

BLOOD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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